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BOOK REVIEWS

In Greece with the Classics. By WILLIAM AMORY GARDNER. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1908. Pp. 301.

Mr. Gardner's *In Greece with the Classics* is the fruit of a commendable experience of reading Greek literature while visiting Athens, Mycenae, Delphi, Olympia, and other scenes of ancient splendor. As an expression of genuine interest for that literature, this book deserves more than a passing notice. Specialists will hardly add it to their libraries, but if the audience to which the author makes his appeal is touched by the spirit of the great literary masterpieces, selections from which Mr. Gardner essays to translate, this book will have fulfilled an important mission.

Whether visiting such places as are mentioned above, or Corinth, Eleusis, Aegina, and Marathon, Mr. Gardner offers translations of passages from the Greek classics naturally suggested by the localities under discussion, and these translations constitute the chief burden of his handsome volume; while not always convincing, some renderings, nevertheless, as of the Homeric episode of Nausicaa, catch something of the eternal charm of the original; parts of Aeschylus' *Agamemnon* and of the Homeric hymns are unmistakably successful, but unfortunately the sheaf contains tares as well, and the chaff detracts from the value of the grain. The thread of narrative that binds these translations together is, to be sure, no authoritative account of history, legend, geography, topography, archeology, and mythology, but these fragments of wisdom, though often failing to create an atmosphere, will, perhaps, accomplish their end with those very readers who may, too, take an interest in the author's occasional sentimental and picturesque touches.

Criticism touching the absolute relevancy or irrelevancy of certain selections from the ancient literature or of the other data employed, were quite beside the mark in view of the necessarily large part the personal equation plays in a *mélange* such as this work is; though some of the translations lack distinction and although the author's erudition is not always vital, yet the work as a whole is quite free from actual error and will commend itself to those who would spend some pleasant hours in profitable revery over a past, replete with enthusiasms.

A bibliography of the leading translations of the Greek classics as well as of standard handbooks on art, archeology, and history would, conceivably, have proven of value to those uninitiated readers who may welcome Mr. Gardner's book and be led by it to deeper researches. But a profound interest attaches to any work betraying the deep-seated love for Greek literature that constituted the inspiration of the present work, which may well be regarded as an academic phenomenon of no slight value.

GEORGE DEPUE HADZSITS

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA